

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-38 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for controlling prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the method, comprising the steps of:~~

reserving resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, wherein setting, by a rating device, an initial data delivery limit is set for each service group based on the resources and information about the charging criteria; and,

sending a message containing information about the initial data delivery limits from the rating device to a measuring device, wherein allocating, in the measuring device, proportional data delivery limits are allocated for each service group individually, and

~~reallocating, in the measuring device, wherein~~ remaining resources to the service groups are reallocated based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, the new proportional data delivery limits being for use in delivery of data after a service group has exceeded its proportional data delivery limit.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~comprising the further step of defining~~ wherein a proportional data delivery limit is defined for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~comprising the further step of~~ wherein defining a pricing weight is defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~comprising the further step of~~ wherein sending a report is sent from the measuring device to the rating device after all of the reserved resources are used.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising ~~the further step of defining~~ wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

6. (Currently Amended) A system, ~~for controlling prepaid data services~~ comprising
a prepayment system hosting prepaid resources;

a rating device configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information;⁵ and

a ~~measuring device~~ meter configured to allocate proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, to measure ~~the~~ use of each of the service groups, and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication system, configured for provision of prepaid services for the users thereof, the communication system comprising~~

at least one data communication network;⁵

a prepayment system hosting prepaid resources;⁵

a rating device configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information;⁵ and

a ~~measuring device~~ meter configured to allocate proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, to measure ~~the~~ use of each of the service groups, and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group

individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication system~~ in accordance with claim 7, wherein the at least one data communication network comprises a packet core communication network for communication of data between users and the meter ~~measuring device~~ and a public data network for communication of data between the ~~measuring device~~ meter and providers of the prepaid services.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller for controlling prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the controller~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a reserver configured to reserve ~~reserving means for reserving~~ resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network;

a setter configured to set ~~setting means for setting, by~~ via a rating device, an initial data delivery limit for each service group based on the resources and information about the charging criteria;

a transmitter configured to send ~~sending means for sending~~ a message containing information about the initial data delivery limits from the rating device to a meter ~~measuring device~~;

~~allocating means for allocating~~ an allocator, configured to allocate, in the measuring device meter, proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually; and

~~reallocating means for reallocating~~ a reallocator configured to reallocate, in the measuring device meter, remaining resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually, the new proportional data delivery limits being for use in delivery of data after a service group has exceeded its proportional data delivery limit.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising ~~defining means for defining~~ a definer configured to define a proportional data delivery limit for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising ~~second defining means for defining~~ wherein the definer is further configured to define a pricing weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising ~~sending means for sending~~ wherein the transmitter is further configured to send a report from the ~~measuring device meter~~ to the rating device after all of the reserved resources are used.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a definer configured to define ~~defining means for defining~~ the initial data delivery limit as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A rating device comprising for controlling prepaid data services into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the rating device being~~

a reserver configured to reserve resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria;

a processor configured to obtain information of prepaid resources reserved from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria and of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information; and

a transmitter configured to send a message containing information about initial data deliver limits to a measuring device.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising: ~~A measuring device for controlling prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, the measuring device being~~

a processor configured to allocate proportional data delivery limits for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria ~~group individually;~~ and

a meter configured to measure ~~the~~ use of each of the service groups and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

16. (New) A device according to claim 14, wherein a proportional data delivery limit is defined for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

17. (New) A device according to claim 16, wherein a pricing weight is defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

18. (New) A device according to claim 14, wherein the initial data delivery limit comprises a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

19. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a proportional data delivery limit is defined for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

20. (New) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a pricing weight is defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

21. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein, after all of the reserved resources are used, a report is sent from the apparatus to a rating device configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information.

22. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, comprising wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

23. (New) A method comprising:

- allocating proportional data delivery limits for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria;
- measuring use of each of the service groups; and
- reallocating remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein a proportional data delivery limit is defined for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein a pricing weight is defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein a report is sent to a rating device after all of the reserved resources are used, wherein the rating device is configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26, comprising wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

28. (New) A method, comprising
reserving resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria;

obtaining information of prepaid resources reserved from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria

and of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information; and

sending a message containing information about initial data deliver limits to a measuring device.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the initial data delivery limit comprises a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

30. (New) An apparatus comprising
reserving means for reserving resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria;

processing means for obtaining information of prepaid resources reserved from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria and of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information; and

transmitting means for sending a message containing information about initial data deliver limits to a measuring device.

31. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, comprising wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

32. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

processor means for allocating proportional data delivery limits for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria; and

metering means for measuring use of each of the service groups and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein a proportional data delivery limit is defined for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein a pricing weight is defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

35. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein a report is sent from the measuring device to the rating device after all of the reserved resources are used.

36. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, comprising wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

37. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

allocating proportional data delivery limits for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria;

measuring use of each of the service groups; and

reallocating remaining free resources to the service groups based on pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each service group individually for delivery of data when a service group exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

38. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

reserving resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria;

obtaining information of prepaid resources reserved from a prepayment system for prepaid data services divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria and of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information; and

sending a message containing information about initial data deliver limits to a measuring device.